

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 HEW-08 SCI-06 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /057 W
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R 101500Z AUG 73

FM AMEMASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8207

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 4235

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS/ SWEL, PAHO

SUBJ: PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION - ELECTION OF DIRECTOR

REF: STATE 139523: PANAMA 0749

SUMMARY: GOP HAS NO POSITION NOW BUT IS STRONGLY LEANING
AGAINST REELECTION OF INCUMBENT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN COURSE OF MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ON ANOTHER
MATTER AUGUST 8, I RAISED THIS SUBJECT.

2. I REMINDED TACK THAT AMBASSADOR HAD DISCUSSED THIS
SUBJECT WITH HIM IN FEBRUARY, AT WHICH TIME TACK HAD
INDICATED SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF ROTATION AND HAD
UNDERTAKEN TO CONSULT WITH MINISTER OF HEALTH AND GIVE
US MORE DEFINITIVE ANSWER. IN NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR'S
DISCUSSION WITH HIM HAD BEEN PART OF OUR CONSULTATION
WITH PAHO MEMBERS IN WHICH WE HAD FOUND NO REPEAT NO
CONSENSUS FOR REELECTION OF HORWITZ AND ALMOST HALF OF
THE MEMBERSHIP FAVORING ROTATION. I SAID WE CONTINUED
TO STRONGLY FAVOR ROTATION AND TO BELIEVE THAT VENEZUELA
AND MEXICO HAD PRESENTED CANDIDATES WORTHY OF SUPPORT
AND INQUIRED WHETHER FOREIGN MINISTER COULD TELL ME
ANYTHING MORE ABOUT GOP POSITION.

3. TACK SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO EXPLAIN TO ME IN
CONFIDENCE THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES GOP PROBLEM WITH REGARD
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TO THIS CANDIDACY. FIRST, IT IS FOREIGN MINISTRY POLICY

TO TAKE ITS GUIDANCE ON THESE CANDIDACIES FROM THE GOP MINISTRY DIRECTLY INVOLVED, IN THIS CASE THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH. SECOND, BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM MINISTRY OF HEALTH, MINISTER ESQUIVEL HAD INFORMED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT IN ESQUIVEL'S VIEW HORWITZ HAD DONE A FINE JOB AND THAT HE FAVORED HIS CANDIDACY. THIRD, MINISTER OF HEALTH IS STILL TECHNICALLY ON LEAVE FROM THE MINISTRY. DR. SAIED IS IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY BUT HAS NOT BEEN MADE THE MINISTER DESPITE DR. ESQUIVEL'S PROLONGED "LEAVE." FINALLY, DR. SAIED AGREES WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROTATION PRINCIPLE AND BELIEVES GOP SHOULD NOT SUPPORT HORWITZ CANDIDACY. HOWEVER, GIVEN DR. SAIED'S STATUS IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND HIS AWARENESS OF MINISTER ESQUIVEL'S SUPPORT FOR HORWITZ, DR. SAIED SO FAR HAS NOT BEEN WILLING TO TRANSMIT HIS POSITION OFFICIALLY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER.

4. WE LEFT IT THAT TACK WOULD TRY TO GET ACTING MINISTER OF HEALTH TO COMMUNICATE OFFICIALLY HIS PRIVATE POSITION OF OPPOSITION TO HORWITZ REELECTION.

THOMPSON

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